

We are updating our website so stay tuned for the new look at:

www.PCFLV.org

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS? SUPPORT PCFLV

- **United Way:** enter charity code 42264 under restricted contribution
- **Search & Shop** online using goodsearch.com and designate PCFLV
- **Shop** at your favorite store using www.IGIVE.com and designate PCFLV
- **Designate PCFLV** as your charity of choice when you sell on EBAY
- **Donate** online at www.PCFLV.org or via mail
- **Host a Fundraiser** to support PCFLV

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Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Run to LIVE Exceeds Goal

Our 2nd Annual 8K Run/5K Walk and 1/2 Mile Fun Run kicked off on a brisk Saturday in March. As any good event planner knows, the weather is only half of the worries of the day: will we run out of food? are there enough bathrooms? can we monitor all these people? But there were only smiles and joy on this March 19th day. As we celebrated our 2nd Run, we



David's Warriors Captains accept their awards for Largest Team, Top Fundraising Team and the Haldaman's for Top Individual Fundraisers.

hosted over 1300 participants and 75 volunteers and raised almost \$55,000 to send local families to Camp Sunshine, a respite camp in Maine, as well as continue to support PCFLV's free programs to local families. We had 36 teams attend included the largest, David's Warriors, over 260 strong, and the Most Spirited Team, Team Hope.

In addition, we had special treats by Tootsee the Clown, the Fun Bus, The Morning Call Dog Max and his art table, as well as roaming characters like Elmo and Goofy.

Laura Neary gave a heartwarming speech about PCFLV and her experience last summer at Camp Sunshine. For her family, Camp brought a renewed sense of normalcy to 15 months of treatment



Most Spirited Team: Team Hope

and fear. We are forever grateful to Laura and her special family for helping us share a personal glimpse into their journey, the positive impact on the entire family through programs PCFLV provides, and Camp Sunshine. Mark your calendars for next March and stay tuned as we aim to make our 3rd Run To LIVE even better!

Keep Watch at : www.PCFLV.org or follow us on FB or Twitter!

SOUTH WHITEHALL BRINGS HOLIDAY JOY

Missy Hudak is a working mom who loves to make a difference. She also loves involving her co-workers into her outreach. For the second year, Missy has reached out to some of our local families during the Christmas holiday. Last year they adopted one family and were able to

help their Christmas wishes come true. This year, in partnership with PCFLV, we were able to reach 16 families and bring a little extra to their holiday season.

**SAVE THE DATE:
Color My World Gala
September 8 2011
5:30—9 pm
Monterre Vineyards
Orefield, PA**



Making Christmas wishes come true

SMILES for CHRISTMAS MORNING



Thank you Smiles!!

Mike Anders wanted to teach his young sons about the true spirit of Christmas. Having purchased duplicate Power Wheels Trucks for Christmas, he decided it would be a great opportunity to donate one to another child.

Mike contacted PCFLV to see if we had a child who could benefit and immediately arrangements were made to pick up and deliver the Jeep. Satisfying, but Mike wanted to

do more. With the help of friends and family, Mike launched "Smiles for Christmas Morning" and collected money to buy more Power Wheels cars, Nintendo DS units and games, various other toys items and even an IPOD.

Through Mike's simple act of kindness and the generosity of his friends and coworkers, PCFLV

was able to help create many Smiles for Christmas Morning throughout the Lehigh Valley. We are so excited to be a vehicle to help so many. Thank you from our families to yours!



Aetna Nurses Design for a Day



Journals and drawing books from Aetna Nursing



What happens when you mix dedicated employees, a bunch of copy books and some art and craft supplies together? 60 custom designed and created journals and drawing books for children diagnosed with cancer to use!!

Aetna Nurses recently spent two nights together at AC Moore creating and designing these one-of-a-kind journals to help PCFLV provide a re-

source to local families. Many of you know that when you are faced with challenges, as many of these families are from the moment their child is diagnosed, writing down thoughts or medicines or appointments can give you a real sense of control in a sometimes uncontrollable environment. Writing or drawing for the younger chil-

dren, has been proven to be an extremely effective way to chronicle their emotions. Working on their own book can allow the parent or child to tell their personal story of diagnosis and treatment in a powerful and reflective way and help make sense of their journey. Thank you Aetna Nurses for your generosity!!!

A Birthday Gift that Keeps Giving



Great Job Alex!!!

Alex Evans was turning 11 but unlike most other 11 year olds, she wasn't wondering what cool outfit she was going to get for her birthday or what new gift card to spend

on herself. Instead, Alex's gift list request was comprised of a "wish list" for PCFLV. The items donated from Alex's party included puzzles, games, dress up items and various gift cards. PCFLV is so proud of Alex and her awesome generous heart. Thank you Alex and

your guests for helping us continue to have items to share with children in the hospital during our Chemo Circus days, to provide to children on their birthdays and to have access to special treats to share with those in need. Way to go Alex!

MEET One of OUR FAMILIES

From birth, our Vanessa had issues with constipation. After scopes, tests, and biopsies, there were no answers. An exaggerated walk and complete shift in Vanessa's mood led to an MRI of her spine when she was 20 months old. Nothing could have prepared us for the following words: "There is a tumor in your daughter's spine." The room was spinning; we were not breathing. We were listening to our doctor, but not really hearing the words coming out of his mouth. We were in shock.

Then survival instinct kicked in. We asked: "What do we do next?" For us, the answer was to find a neurosurgeon immediately. We located a pediatric neurosurgeon and got an appointment for a consult. That consult turned into an immediate admission and surgery the next morning. It was tremendously scary stuff.

The surgeon was able to remove 95% of the tumor. The remainder was entwined in her spinal cord, and he did not want to risk any further damage, so he left it where it was.

Vanessa's post-surgery recovery included learning to walk again (once she could bear weight on her legs and spine). Vanessa's bladder no longer functioned properly, and she was not voiding her urine. The only way to ensure that it did not back up into her kidneys was to catheterize her several times a day. (We still do it three times a day.) After the biopsy results, we were given a plan of action. A subsequent MRI of her brain revealed areas of cancer cells. We were reeling when we learned of this additional cancer. But there was no time to freak out, because it was time to learn

about ports, chemotherapy, percentage of survival and long-term hospital stays. There was loss of hair, relocation of our other daughter, Kyra, to her grandmother's house, and lots of tears. More MRI scans showed slow progression of the disease ...even while on chemotherapy drugs. Then it was time for Vanessa's three stem cell transplants.

She breezed through transplant like a champ! But the cancer was still growing! No one was giving up, but the odds were not great. That was three years ago this month! An oral chemotherapy drug eventually began to keep the cancer stable, and has done so for 27 months now! A true miracle!

The world of cancer is all that Vanessa knows. It has profoundly changed our family. It affects every decision we make. Vanessa has handled each step with a courage that is inspiring! She and Kyra are very compassionate, and they enjoy helping other cancer kids.

Through all of this, we cried, worried and prayed, but we NEVER gave up (and we NEVER will!). We have a super-supportive family to help us, and we have PCFLV. The friends we have made through PCFLV are absolutely priceless. We live with cancer every minute of every day, but we know we are not alone. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful organization in our community. We had no choice about becoming involved in this world of cancer. But we have remained positive, hopeful and so thankful for every minute that we are all together. A positive attitude (and perhaps a bit of denial) has allowed us to persevere. We are truly blessed.

Sincerely,
Don and Tracy Stauffer
Proud Parents of Kyra and Vanessa
keep the cancer stable, and has done so for 27 months now! A true miracle!



DAISY TROOP BUILDS BEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

Daisy Troop 1110 from Kutztown Pennsylvania wanted to earn their Community Service Badges and found a great way to hopefully earn a new friend at the same time. Fourteen girls created Build-A-Bears at the Lehigh Valley Mall store on April 16 and donated their bear, along with a hand-made card, to PCFLV for distribution to local children. The hope for this project is that a pen-pal connection can be generated from the new bear's owners to the bear's little creators. The Daisy Troop not only earned their Community Service Badge, but also received a Build A Bear Badge for their vest and their own bear's vest. These little hearts can do great big things!





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Enabling Children with Cancer to LIVE!



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Thank you IRONPIGS

*A special thank you to the Iron-Pigs for their VIP treatment at their Halloween Suites & Treats event for local nonprofits. We were delighted to be able to send all families interested in attending to this fun filled night and all families who attended enjoyed the food, pumpkin and cookie decorating as well as visiting all the special decorated suites. In keeping with our mission to provide fun safe family outings, **the Iron-Pigs hit a home run** in helping us make a typical Tuesday anything but typical. Thank you IronPigs!! We love you!*

